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APPENDIX 'A'

BRIEF HISTORY OF 17TH BN THE RAJPUT REGIMENT

The Battalion was raised on 15 APR 1942 at FATEHGARH by Lt Col (Now Gen) K M CARIAPPA, High Commissioner for INDIA in AUSTRALIA and NEWSEALAND and the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. It was named " The 7th RAJPUT Machine Gun Battalion and "BARHE CHALO" as its motto. On 25 JUL 1942 it moved from FATEHGARH to LAHORE to form part of 267 Ind Armd Bde which was in the process of formation. The Battalion, on 1 AUG 42 got a new name " The 52nd RAJPUT Regt IAC (BAWANJAH RISALA)."

On 15 SEP 42 it was again reorganised as a Lorried-Battalion and renamed as The 17th Battalion The SEVENTH RAJPUT Regt. Infantry ranks and names were reintroduced. In OCT 42 the Battalion moved to SECUNDERABAD to form part of 44 Ind Armd Div and for moving into SEAC after intensive training. In NOV 43, however, the Battalion was selected for Famine Relief Duties in BENGAL. The good work of the Battalion earned two OBEs. In 1944 the Battalion served on KOHIMA - IMPHAL front as part of 21 Ind Inf Div and earned two Military Crosses.

As the Battalion was to be converted into a machine gun unit it was moved to RANCHI in AUG 44 and became a part of 17 Div. MMG training started in real earnest. In JUN 45 the Battalion moved to AHMEDNAGAR to form part of the famous 36 Div.

On 27 JAN 46 it moved to ATTOCK to form part of 10 Div. On 1 MAY 48 the Battalion was reorganised as an Infantry battalion under orders of GHQ. From APR 47 to JUL 51 it served in MYSORE, BOMBAY and HYDRABAD and was called out for Internal Security many times. For three years the Battalion was on Field service in J&K from JUL 51 to JUL 54 when it moved to SHILLONG.

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It was again called out to TUENSANG FRONTIER DIVISION (NEFA) for internal security in APR 55. From APR 55 to FEB 56 many strong hostile Naga strong holds were liquidated and law and order restored in the area of responsibility. The work of the Battalion in that area was very much appreciated by the military and civil authorities and letters of appreciation were received from The Chief of the Army Staff and The Governor of ASSAM.